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June 8, 2011

House Education Committee  
State of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear House Education Committee Members:

Bills introduced in the House (HB 4496) and the Senate (SB225) House would allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate (four-year) degrees in such areas as cement technology, maritime technology, culinary arts, nursing, and energy production technology.

Michigan's fifteen public universities have long had excellent working relationships with the state's community colleges. We believe that an expansion of those collaborations is the most efficient way to provide Michigan residents with the four-year degree programs that some community colleges want to offer in their districts. What the community colleges are suggesting would be the most expensive and least efficient way to meet that need, the substantial costs for which would, in any event, be borne solely by students and local taxpayers. There is a better way.

The Presidents Council on behalf of Michigan's 15 public universities have pledged to collaborate with our community college colleagues and will provide locally any new baccalaureate or degree completion program for which there is a need within that community college district. This pledge would apply for any of the programs identified above, including a Bachelor of Science degree to community college graduates who are registered nurses and who wish to enroll in a BSN completion program. This pledge is identical to the commitment we made during the last legislative session.

This continuous pledge by our member universities ensures that duplication and waste will be avoided, can be implemented immediately, and is far less costly – which is exactly what our elected officials have been asking from public agencies at all levels.

The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, is ready to coordinate and implement this pledge with our community college colleagues. Legislation is unnecessary, as the universities and community colleges have a long history of crafting and implementing collaborative programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Mroz".

Glenn Mroz, Chair  
President, Michigan Technological University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Boulus".

Michael A. Boulus  
Executive Director

Central Michigan University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ferris State University  
Grand Valley State University  
Lake Superior State University  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Northern Michigan University



Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
The University of Michigan – Dearborn  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University

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To: Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: Michael Boulus, Executive Director

Re: House Bill 4496: Unnecessary, Duplicative and Expensive

Date: June 8, 2011

You are being asked to vote on legislation allowing community colleges to begin offering four-year degree programs. The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan urges you to vote NO on House Bills 4496.

- Michigan's students are already very well served by the collaborative efforts of universities and community colleges. As the included map and table show, across the state, Michigan's universities are working hand in hand with community colleges to meet the needs of students on those community college campuses.

In all, nearly 15,000 students are enrolled in more than 300 four-year degree programs offered by Michigan's universities at community colleges. This does not include the many other course offerings made in collaboration with community colleges through University Centers and online, which allow community college students to complete most, if not all, of their course work in their local community.

- Michigan's public universities have pledged to offer bachelor degree programs in any area, in any part of the state. The outreach has been ongoing.
- Allowing community colleges to offer bachelor's degree programs will unnecessarily raise the operating costs at the community colleges. This will mean higher tuition, higher property taxes, or cuts in services to other students.
- Michigan's community colleges were not established to offer four-year degrees and do not have the base of professional educators needed to provide accredited bachelor's degrees. There is nothing worse than a student who graduates from a program only to learn that it is not a nationally accredited program accepted by the employers in her or his region.

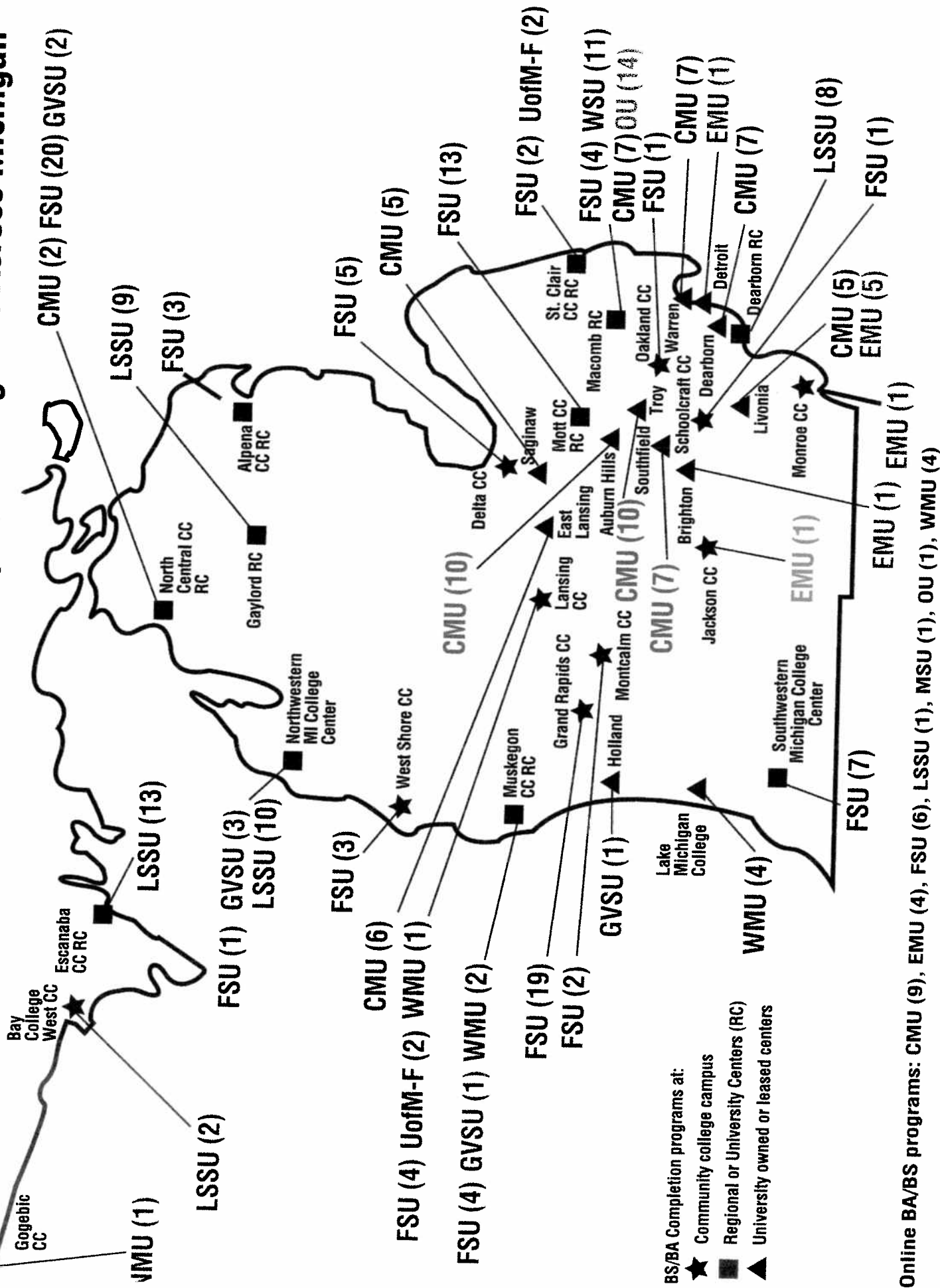
If you have any questions or request any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Central Michigan University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ferris State University  
Grand Valley State University  
Lake Superior State University  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University



Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
The University of Michigan – Dearborn  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
Wayne State University

# 15 Public University Bachelor Degree Completion Programs Across Michigan



# WMU to offer nursing program in Benton Harbor

by Jeanne Baron

April 29, 2011 | WMU News

BENTON HARBOR--Residents of southwest Michigan and northern Indiana will soon have a new avenue for increasing their nursing credentials without leaving the region.

Starting this fall, Western Michigan University's southwest Michigan location in Benton Harbor will begin offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University's Bronson School of Nursing.

The WMU-Southwest offering is structured so that registered nurses holding an associate's degree in nursing from Lake Michigan College, or another college, can transfer into the WMU program. It is being announced in time for National Nurses Week. The week always starts May 6 and runs through May 12, which is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

WMU is bringing the same RN-BSN Progression Track program to WMU-Southwest that it now offers only on its main campus in Kalamazoo. The move further strengthens the WMU-LMC partnership that began in 2002 with the opening of the University's building on LMC's campus.

## Learn more

WMU will host three information sessions:

- **Wednesday, May 4**, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Room 2 of the Upton Center at Lakeland HealthCare, 1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph
- **Wednesday, May 4**, 7 to 8 p.m., Room 2 of the Upton Center at Lakeland HealthCare, 1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph
- **Wednesday, May 18**, 5:30 to 7 p.m., WMU-Southwest, 2785 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor

WMU-Southwest will pay the \$35 program application fee for information session attendees who apply to the RN-BSN Progression Track program by May 31.

**To register for a session**, visit [wmich.edu/southwest](http://wmich.edu/southwest) or contact Robin Ross, WMU-Southwest student services coordinator, at [robin.a.ross@wmich.edu](mailto:robin.a.ross@wmich.edu) or (269) 934-1500.

"We're thrilled to be bringing such a high-caliber and affordable BSN program to Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties as well as to northern Indiana communities," says Luann Harden, director of WMU-Southwest. "Job-growth projections make it clear that increasing numbers of RNs will be seeking a bachelor's degree in the coming years. So in addition to educating the nursing profession's future leaders, we're serving the evolving needs of area employers and employees."

"Expanded higher education opportunities are important for the economic growth of the region," adds Dr. Robert Harrison, president of LMC. "With accessible training choices, our local health care professionals can further their skill and knowledge to the benefit of everyone in our communities."

WMU's RN-BSN Progression Track program is designed specifically for registered nurses and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The WMU-Southwest curriculum will be as rigorous and of the same quality as that being offered on the main campus.

The nursing school will accept up to 20 RNs into the WMU-Southwest program each year. Courses will be offered in a hybrid format, blending high-tech and high-touch instruction.

"Delivery of the program has been planned to accommodate the needs and schedules of working nurses," says Dr. Linda Zoeller, director of the Bronson School of Nursing. "We'll be combining the benefits of direct faculty, student and peer interaction with high-tech modalities so students can experience the best of both traditional and online course delivery. This will allow students to plan classes accordingly and provide the necessary flexibility for timely program completion."

Earning a BSN degree opens doors for those nurses who aspire to higher leadership positions in health care as well as expands the breadth of possibilities for careers in community-based health care. BSN-prepared nurses can continue their education at the graduate level if they are interested in applying for advanced-practice positions such as nurse practitioners, nurse administrators or nurse educators.





**For more information** about WMU's RN-BSN Progression Track program in Benton Harbor, contact Luann Harden, director of WMU-Southwest, at [luann.harden@wmich.edu](mailto:luann.harden@wmich.edu) or (269) 934-1500.

# Major cuts part of proposed ACC budget

## Staff notified of job eliminations; concrete tech program may be put on hold

April 29, 2011

Erika Fifelski - News Staff Writer , The Alpena News

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ALPENa - Letters of termination issued to three Alpena Community College employees sparked discussion among administrators and members of the faculty council, especially since the layoff notices signal potential closure of the concrete technology program.

Senior administrators discussed a budget proposal with the board of trustees during a workshop on April 4. The proposal aims to balance the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1. The board will be formally presented with the proposal during its May 19 meeting and ultimately vote on the matter in June.

But per contract language of faculty and support staff at the college, notification of termination must be given 90 days before layoffs take effect. To this end, President Olin Joynton sent letters to staff, informing them that their positions will be eliminated.

"We're looking at a number of different options including this one I enacted after consultation with the trustees," Joynton said. "It is part of my job description to present a balanced budget to the board. I have to find a way to make the budget balanced in my proposal."

The concrete technology program is unique to the region and the nation, Joynton said, however declining enrollment figures support his proposal to put the program on hold. Joynton said students already enrolled in the program as freshmen this year will complete their sophomore year and graduate on time at the end of the next school year. However a new freshman class will not be admitted for the 2011-12 school year.

"We will maintain the program in that way, teaching the sophomores in the coming year and doing everything we can to admit another class in a year from now," he said.

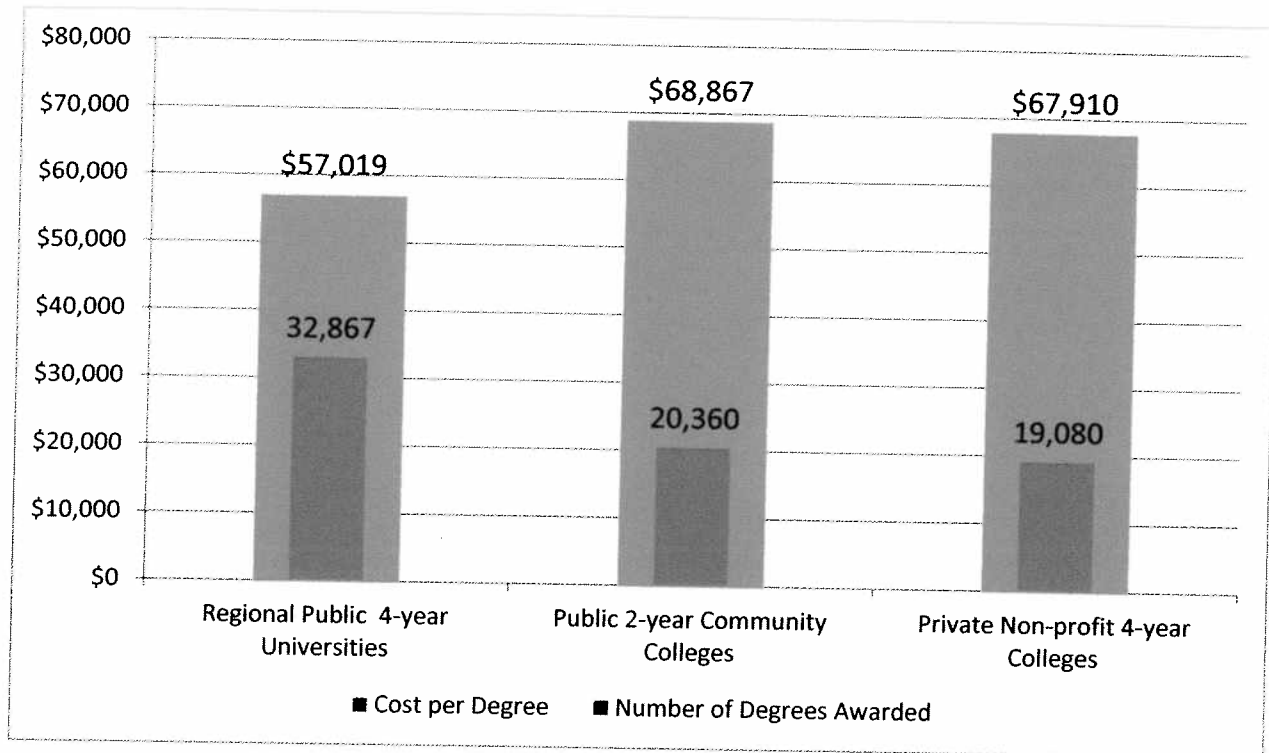
In a press release, Joynton stated that in order to reinstate the program as normal, "the college hopes that conditions will improve enough to keep the program going ... The college aspires to admit a new cohort of freshmen in 2012, hoping also that labor market conditions improve, which would stimulate more enrollment in the program."

Dan Cary, member of the faculty council, said in the last two years the program's enrollment numbers remained steady at 27 students. In 2008, with the help of a grant to admit more students than otherwise possible, student enrollment in the program was 54. He said already during early enrollment this spring, four students were admitted to the program and 14 other applications were received, but those students will be turned away.

"The concrete program has always been filled. Graduates all get jobs, and they are among the highest paying jobs for graduates in the country. The point that the program is in trouble is incorrect," Cary said.

Joynton said ACC has one of the lowest fund balances of the 28 community colleges in Michigan, and the 6.8 percent reserve fund, or \$926,000, is far below a comfortable level. Most colleges, he said, maintain a 20 percent fund balance.

## 2008 Cost per Degree for Michigan Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)



Postsecondary Institution Type	Education & General Expenditures	Number of Degrees Awarded	Cost per Degree
Regional Public 4-year Universities	\$1,874,036,899	32,867	\$57,019
Public 2-year Community Colleges	\$1,402,131,997	20,360	\$68,867
Private Non-profit 4-year Colleges	\$1,295,725,376	19,080	\$67,910

The data source is the Delta Cost Project ([www.deltacostproject.org](http://www.deltacostproject.org)) – a grant funded organization that measures cost of education per student, student and subsidy shares, and performance using National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (NCES IPEDS).

Education & General Expenditures include all core operating expenditures – instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, operations and maintenance, and net scholarships and fellowships.

By removing net scholarships and fellowships from the equation, the percentage change in cost per degree for the regional universities is -6.3% and for the community colleges the percentage change is -4.7%.

Postsecondary Institution Type	Education & General Expenditures	E&G minus Scholarship & Grants	Number of Degrees Awarded	Cost per Degree
Regional Public 4-year Universities	\$1,874,036,899	\$1,756,513,373	32,867	\$53,443
Public 2-year Community Colleges	\$1,402,131,997	\$1,317,886,503	20,360	\$64,729

***Continuing and Professional Education Collaborative***

**Community College Baccalaureate Degrees**

**Michigan State Universities**

**March 2011**

**Significant growth in community college baccalaureate offerings have garnered attention nationwide, but impacts on state budgets and educational attainment are still unclear**

- **There are currently 18 states in the U.S. that have approved legislation allowing community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees.**
  - Eleven out of 18 states have approved their legislation in the past 10 years.
  - The most significant growth occurred over the past six years as the number of total program offerings have increased from 128 to 465.
- **Economic impact data on how community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees effect state education budgets is not yet conclusive.**
  - New bachelor's degree program implementation costs at community colleges will vary by state, but Florida and Texas have provided estimates at approximately one million dollars of state funds per institution to adapt baccalaureate programs.
  - Data from the National Center for Education Statistics show a slight decline in bachelor's degree conferral growth from traditional four-year institutions from 2003 to 2010 in states that currently allow community colleges to grant four year degrees. During this same timeframe, when these states added more community colleges offering four-year degrees, the bachelor's degree conferral growth among community colleges increased significantly, at 127%.
  - According to the U.S. Census, no significant gains in these 18 states were shown between 2005 and 2009 in the relative percent of those 25 years and older who have attained a bachelor's degree. Further investigation into contributing factors such as population growth or the overall economic climate may help to draw more conclusions from this data.



June 21, 2010

<http://detroitnews.com/article/20100621/OPINION01/6210308>

# Editorial: Don't turn community colleges into four-year schools

## Don't turn community colleges into four-year schools

This month state lawmakers are expected to vote on the passage of legislation that would allow Michigan community colleges to grant four-year degrees in select high-need job areas. Lawmakers would be wrong to vote for these bills, yet they should also continue to pressure public universities to expand their capacity to provide training in these skills.

Michigan's 28 community colleges, charged with providing affordable education options and regionally relevant jobs programs, are lobbying for a package of bills now in the state House and Senate that would allow them to award bachelor's degrees in nursing, cement technology, maritime technology and culinary arts.

They have good reason to do so. In fields such as nursing, a growing number of medical systems require a four-year degree to obtain a good job, instead of traditional two-year degrees. And waiting lists for such programs have stalled hundreds of Michiganders from moving into high-demand jobs.

In a state with one of the highest unemployment rates nationwide, this debate would seem simple. But giving community colleges the power to grant four-year degrees also would lead to other problems which Michigan doesn't need.

Four-year schools are more expensive, for both taxpayers and students. Their costs are higher because they need more faculty with advanced degrees and support services. Community colleges almost always have far lower graduation rates, as well.

So while they may appear to be a comparatively inexpensive alternative to four-year universities, the cost of what is called "degree production" must be considered, says Ed St. John, a University of Michigan professor of higher education. When that is considered, community colleges often come up short. Michigan can afford neither lower graduation rates nor or higher costs associated with community colleges moving toward four-year institutions.

Instead we'd like to see the Legislature support an alternative proposed by the state's four-year institutions: University Centers where several universities may locate operations at a community college and offer classes to achieve degrees in high-need areas where demand warrants. Macomb Community College has been a pioneer in this area.

That said, four-year universities have neglected to offer such widespread services for years. Shortages in nursing program slots and in other high-demand professional training programs are an old story in southeast Michigan and elsewhere around the state.

For that reason, lawmakers should give four-year universities a deadline to provide such expanded access. Only the recent threat of competition from community colleges has spurred four-year universities to propose the overdue University Center concept. Now lawmakers need to keep the pressure on public universities to ensure they act on their stated interest, while limiting community colleges to their historic and vital mission.



August 6, 2009

## Keep community colleges on mission

Michigan would be ill-served by adopting a proposal to allow the state's 28 community colleges to offer four-year degrees. Such a move would erode community college's traditional advantage on costs - and disrupt their focus as an entry point to advanced education.

Keying off a trend that has seen other states extend community colleges' reach, State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, wants the colleges here to have the option to offer bachelor's degrees in three fields: nursing, culinary arts and cement technology.

Community colleges are pitching expansion in the context of President Obama's \$12 billion plan to increase the number of community college graduates.

Creating four-year degree programs will not improve graduation rates for community colleges. Grad rates are lower at community colleges because they are open to a much wider variety of students, even those who aren't really ready or perhaps suited for the environment.

Also, a legislative wand conferring degree authority does nothing to create the expert staff, facilities and infrastructure needed for extended degree programs. This is why there are four-year colleges and two-year colleges. Each category serves a different purpose, with differing staffs and strategies.

What a four-year degree program will do, though, is invite mission creep - an old story in higher education in Michigan. Take, for example, Central Michigan University.

Its Web site says, "School founders made teacher training their mission in founding the state's second normal school."

Now, CMU offers undergraduate work in everything from accounting to construction management to women's studies. CMU will charge students this year about \$330 per credit hour - compared to Lansing Community College's \$73 per credit hour for in-district students.

This is not to pick on CMU. Similar stories could be told about Western or Eastern Michigan - or in other states.

And rest assured that, if given four-year degree authority, community colleges would begin an inexorable transformation into bigger institutions with larger staffs and much higher costs. Ten or 20 years after this process started, Michigan leaders would be arguing for the need to create new "community" colleges to provide low-cost access.

Everyone from President Obama on down is counting on community colleges to help recast the U.S. work force. That's a testament to what community colleges can do - if they stay focused on their proper role.

In a state where a four-year school will charge an undergrad \$300 an hour and up for classes, community colleges provide a great bargain. Don't lose it.

(An LSJ editorial)

August 6, 2009

## Improve links to four-year schools, jobs

BY CURTIS L. IVERY

I do not oppose the community college baccalaureate in extraordinary cases where such a program is clearly justified. However, such a program is not worth jeopardizing essential community college missions, such as expanding high-demand workforce education programs, serving student diversity with open-door services, and protecting the already fragile funding structure for Michigan community colleges.

Community colleges have a vital and unique mission. We should guard against "mission creep" -- that is, drifting into the mission of our universities and other four-year collegiate institutions. In doing so, we risk our open-door mission and its equity agenda, our certificate and associate degree workforce education programs, our university transfer programs, and our grassroots connections to our local communities that have made Michigan's community colleges great.

The future Michigan workforce will increasingly be drawn from African Americans, Latinos and other minorities, yet these are the very sectors of our society that are the most underprepared for careers in the knowledge economy.

The vast majority of the "new diversity" students entering community colleges require some form of developmental education to increase their writing, reading, math, computing, study and life management skills. We must provide all students with the individualized and special support services they need to achieve their full career and academic potential.

The essential question is one of balancing the expansion of four-year degrees with the demands of producing certificate and associate degrees. Especially in a period of economic uncertainty and financial restructuring, community colleges must assign first priority to the education of the technicians, computer specialists, nurses and other professionals who will drive economic recovery and growth.

It is also important to note that the public portion of funding Michigan's baccalaureate education is a state responsibility -- not that of local citizens who support their community colleges through a local property tax levy. This issue becomes especially critical as both state and local financial resources are stretched.

I am not aware of any empirical data that would suggest that a community college baccalaureate program is either practical or cost effective. In fact, there are other ways in which community colleges are already contributing to the goal of increasing the percentage of citizens with four-year college degrees. For example, WCCCD is one of several Michigan community colleges operating university centers. Called University Square, WCCCD's university center is creating partnerships with public and private colleges and universities to expand access to both in-class and online baccalaureate education.

In addition, there are many examples of programs that lead to a baccalaureate degree through linking community college and university programs in designated fields. Articulation agreements between community colleges assure the smooth transition for community college graduates to university baccalaureate programs. Because these other options serve WCCCD's service area very well, the district has no plans to seek authority to offer the community college baccalaureate, even if the enabling legislation is approved.

*Curtis L. Ivery is chancellor of Wayne County Community College District.*



Everything Michigan

## Guest Commentary: A partnership between Michigan community colleges and universities

Published: Tuesday, May 05, 2009, 9:00 AM Updated: Tuesday, May 05, 2009, 9:12 AM



The Grand Rapids Press

Amid so much reporting on problems facing our state, one bright spot emerging during these troubled times is increased collaboration between our community colleges and public universities.

All across Michigan, the transition from community colleges to public universities is becoming easier and easier, and students couldn't be happier.

Michigan 's 15 public universities have been working extensively with community colleges to create a smooth pathway for students wanting four-year degrees. Our universities recognize and accept the obligation to see that community college students who are ready to transfer gain access to a four-year campus.

Community colleges offer some important advantages to students:

-- They tend to be lower cost for the first two years of education.

-- They may be closer to home and family.

-- Some students would rather stay at home with parents to save on housing costs.

-- And some students simply are not ready for the university setting. The extra two years at a community college may bridge an important gap for these students.

That's why community colleges and universities have collaborated to make entry into four-year universities easier for students who choose community colleges for their first two years of higher education. Among those programs:

Improved "articulation agreements." That's the academic term for "how you get from community college to university as quickly and easily as possible. " Now, due to extensive efforts by both university and community college officials, first- and second-year classes are increasingly aligned, easing the transfer process. Around the state, many universities are now recognizing credits that in the past might have been deemed unacceptable.

Posted: March 28, 2009

## Alliances between universities, community colleges ease student troubles

BY ROBIN ERB  
FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

Tolia Mouzon has burned through more cars than laptops during four years of college -- taking classes at seven campuses used by Wayne and Oakland community colleges and Wayne State University.

"I haven't had a problem," said Mouzon, 22, of Detroit.

Long competitors for students, Michigan's universities and community colleges are finding it's increasingly good for business to team up instead.

New partnerships between the two types of institutions go beyond the old articulation agreements that often were inflexible and fraught with dropped credits, lost paperwork and, at times, ill-prepared students.

These days, students can move back and forth between campuses with ease and less expense. In some partnerships, ID cards work on both campuses, and computer systems have been merged so that financial aid office staff and other college workers pull up the same paperwork on either campus.

"Learning is no longer linear," said Norma Kent, spokeswoman for the American Association of Community Colleges. "You have students going to university, then back to the community college, then back to university. ... It's the notion that the students choose the instruction, the classes that fit their need at the moment."

All this clears the route to a 4-year degree.

### Partnership programs

Mike Guido has taken classes at the University of Michigan and Henry Ford Community College since 2005 through a shared program for architecture students.

His last stop before graduating from U-M's Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning is to be an HFCC classroom this summer for his last few credits.

The 22-year-old said the back-and-forth between schools couldn't have been easier. "I went to the office of registrar at Henry Ford, and they took care of it," Guido said.

In one of the most progressive transfer agreements in the state so far, Macomb Community College has partnered with Oakland University in the M2O program.

In it, students are dual enrolled in the schools. ID cards work on both campuses, and credit hours can be combined from both schools to tap into financial aid.

[Page 2 of 2]

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Donald Ritzenhein, provost and chief learning officer at MCC.

"It's a lot easier to experiment with courses at \$70 an hour instead of \$300 an hour," he said.

Contact **ROBIN ERB** at 313-222-2708 or [rerb@freepress.com](mailto:rerb@freepress.com).

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